

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 10, 11, 21, 22, 26-29, 37 and 39. Please amend Claims 1, 12, 14, 23, 25, 30-33, 35, 38 and 40-43. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently amended) A flexible tip for a hearing aid comprising:
 ~~a mushroom shaped tip;~~
 an inner portion of the tip defining a bore having a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end of the bore adapted to be disposed adjacent an eardrum and a housing formed in the tip at the bore, the inner portion being formed of a first material having sufficient flexibility to allow the inner portion to navigate the S-shaped path of an ear canal while maintaining sufficient stability to prevent the bore from collapsing when the tip is inserted into an ear canal;
 a receiver mounted within the housing; and
 a mushroom shaped portion, integral with the inner portion, and extending radially from the proximal end of the inner portion, that creates a seal in the bony portion of an ear canal when the tip is inserted into an ear, the mushroom shaped portion being formed of a second material, the second material having a greater compliance than the first material.
2. (Original) The flexible tip of claim 1 further comprising a sealing layer formed between the receiver and the inner portion, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path within the flexible tip.
3. (Previously presented) The flexible tip of claim 1 in which the housing is integrally formed within the bore of the flexible tip.

4. (Original) The flexible tip of claim 3 further comprising a sealing layer between the receiver and the receiver housing, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path within the flexible tip.
5. (Original) The flexible tip of claim 1 further comprising a receiver housing and spring assembly integrally formed with the bore of the flexible tip, the receiver mounted within the receiver housing.
6. (Original) The flexible tip of claim 5 wherein the spring is compliant along a transverse axis and a longitudinal axis to provide flexibility in the tip.
7. (Original) The flexible tip of claim 5 wherein the spring comprises a radial stiffness to provide support from radial loads placed on the flexible tip.
8. (Original) The flexible tip of claim 5 wherein the spring comprises a hearing aid securing portion for securing the flexible tip to a hearing aid.
9. (Original) The flexible tip of claim 5 further comprising a sealing layer between the receiver and the receiver housing, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path.
10. (Cancelled).
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Currently amended) A hearing aid comprising:
 - a hearing aid base unit having a housing, a microphone, a battery and electronics;
 - and
 - a flexible tip connected to the base unit, the flexible tip having a mushroom shaped portion and an inner portion, ~~an~~ the inner portion of the tip defining a bore having

a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end adapted to be disposed adjacent an eardrum, and a housing formed in the tip at the bore and a receiver mounted within the housing, the inner portion being formed of a first material having sufficient flexibility to allow the inner portion to navigate the S-shaped path of an ear canal while maintaining sufficient stability to prevent the bore from collapsing when the tip is inserted into an ear canal and the mushroom shaped portion being integral with the inner portion, and extending radially from the proximal end of the inner portion, the mushroom shaped portion creating a seal in the bony portion of an ear canal when the tip is inserted into an ear, the mushroom shaped portion being formed of a second material, the second material having a greater compliance than the first material.

13. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 12 further comprising a sealing layer formed between the receiver and the inner portion, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path within the flexible tip.
14. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of claim 12 wherein the housing is integrally formed with the bore of the flexible tip.
15. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 14 further comprising a sealing layer between the receiver and the receiver housing, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path within the flexible tip.
16. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 12 further comprising a receiver housing and spring assembly integrally formed with the bore of the flexible tip, the receiver mounted within the receiver housing.
17. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 16 wherein the spring is compliant along a transverse axis and a longitudinal axis to provide flexibility in the tip.

18. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 16 wherein the spring comprises a radial stiffness to provide support from radial loads placed on the flexible tip.
19. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 16 wherein the spring comprises a hearing aid securing portion for securing the flexible tip to a hearing aid body.
20. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 16 further comprising a sealing layer between the receiver and the receiver housing, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path.
21. (Cancelled).
22. (Cancelled)
23. (Currently amended) A method for placing a receiver adjacent to an eardrum comprising:
providing a hearing aid with a ~~mushroom-shaped~~ flexible tip having an inner portion defining a bore and a mushroom-shaped portion integral with the inner portion, and extending radially from a proximal end of the inner portion, the flexible tip having a receiver mounted within the bore in a housing which is integrally formed in the bore, the inner portion being formed of a first material having sufficient flexibility to allow the inner portion to navigate the S-shaped path of an ear canal while maintaining sufficient stability to prevent the bore from collapsing when the tip is inserted into an ear canal, and the mushroom shaped portion being formed of a second material, the second material having a greater compliance than the first material;
placing the hearing aid within an ear of a user; and
placing the flexible tip adjacent to the eardrum within the ear of the user such that the mushroom shaped portion creates a seal in the bony portion of an ear canal.
24. (Original) The method of claim 23 comprising decreasing the amount of power required by the receiver.

25. (Currently amended) A flexible tip for a hearing aid comprising:
a tip portion for sealing an ear canal;
an inner portion defining a bore having a proximal end and a distal end, the inner portion formed of a flexible material adapted to conform to the geometry of an ear canal and the proximal end of the bore adapted to be disposed adjacent an eardrum, a receiver housing and a spring assembly being integrally formed with the bore of the flexible tip;
and
a receiver mounted within the ~~bore in a housing integrally formed in the bore~~ receiver housing.
26. (Cancelled).
27. (Cancelled).
28. (Cancelled).
29. (Cancelled).
30. (Currently amended) The flexible tip of claim ~~29~~25 wherein the spring is compliant along a transverse axis and a longitudinal axis to provide flexibility in the tip.
31. (Currently amended) The flexible tip of claim ~~29~~25 wherein the spring comprises a radial stiffness to provide support from radial loads placed on the flexible tip.
32. (Currently amended) The flexible tip of claim ~~29~~25 wherein the spring comprises a hearing aid securing portion for securing the flexible tip to a hearing aid.
33. (Currently amended) The flexible tip of claim ~~29~~25 further comprising a sealing layer between the receiver and the receiver housing, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path.

34. (Original) The flexible tip of claim 25 wherein the inner portion is formed of a first material and the tip portion is formed of a second material, the second material having a greater compliance than the first material.
35. (Currently amended) A hearing aid comprising:
a hearing aid base unit having a housing, a microphone, a battery and electronics;
and
a flexible tip connected to the base unit, the flexible tip having a tip portion for sealing an ear canal, an inner portion defining a bore having a proximal end and a distal end, the inner portion formed of a flexible material adapted to conform to the geometry of an ear canal and the proximal end of the bore adapted to be disposed adjacent an eardrum, and ~~a receiver mounted in a tip housing formed within the bore~~ a receiver housing and a spring assembly being integrally formed with the bore of the flexible tip, a receiver being mounted within the receiver housing.
36. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 35 further comprising a sealing layer formed between the receiver and the inner portion, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path within the flexible tip.
37. (Cancelled).
38. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of claim ~~37~~35 further comprising a sealing layer between the receiver and the receiver housing, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path within the flexible tip.
39. (Cancelled).
40. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of claim ~~39~~35 wherein the spring is compliant along a transverse axis and a longitudinal axis to provide flexibility in the tip.

41. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of claim ~~39~~35 wherein the spring comprises a radial stiffness to provide support from radial loads placed on the flexible tip.
42. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of claim ~~39~~35 wherein the spring comprises a hearing aid securing portion for securing the flexible tip to a hearing aid body.
43. (Currently amended) The hearing aid of claim ~~39~~35 further comprising a sealing layer between the receiver and the receiver housing, the sealing layer minimizing the presence of an acoustical feedback path.
44. (Original) The hearing aid of claim 35 wherein the inner portion is formed of a first material and the tip portion is formed of a second material, the second material having a greater compliance than the first material.